

Director's Statement

I begin this annual report with an apology for its lateness and brevity. The 2003-2004 academic year, my second year as director, began with an ORU little changed from the previous year. However, by the Spring of 2004, very exciting changes and plans for significant growth of the ORU were in place. On July 1, 2004, iQUEST and the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry formally entered into a partnership in which iQUEST would submit grant proposals and manage all of the extramural funds that had been previously handled by the Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry. July, August, and September, which would have been the time to write this Annual Report under ordinary circumstances, were spent moving iQUEST from their long-time temporary location in a trailer in front of the library to permanent quarters in Broida Hall; hiring and training new staff; and spending every available minute balancing and understanding new accounts, submitting proposals, and handling the myriad other tasks required to satisfy our old and new customers. Triage kept the writing of this annual report below the top priority until now. We thank the staff of the Office of Research and many, many other individuals at the University for their unfailing support throughout the transition. We also thank the Office of Research for their understanding in accepting this much delayed Annual Report. Finally, I thank the iQUEST staff for their dedication, hard work, good humor, and initiative in the formation of our new partnership with Chemistry. This very exciting but difficult transition would not have happened without them.